

achieve an impurity level of  $\leq 1,000$  ppm by weight, supplied to the adsorptive separation step.

8. (Amended) A method for producing an aromatic compound isomer substituted with alkyl group(s) and/or halogen atom(s), through adsorptive separation by the use of a zeolite-containing adsorbent and a desorbent, wherein the desorbent is, after having been processed for removing impurities having an aldehyde group or a carboxyl group from it by a method selected from distillation, purging, or absorption to a solid absorbent to achieve an impurity level of  $\leq 1,000$  ppm by weight supplied to the adsorptive separation step.

9. (Amended) A method for producing an aromatic compound isomer substituted with alkyl group(s) and/or halogen atom(s), through adsorptive separation by the use of a zeolite-containing adsorbent and a desorbent, wherein the desorbent is, after having been processed for removing impurities produced during adsorptive separation from it by a method selected from distillation, purging, or absorption to a solid absorbent to achieve an impurity level of  $\leq 1,000$  ppm by weight, supplied to the adsorptive separation step.

10. (Amended) A method for producing an aromatic compound isomer substituted with alkyl group(s) and/or halogen atom(s), through adsorptive separation by the use of a zeolite-containing adsorbent and a desorbent, wherein the desorbent is, after having been processed for removing oxygen-containing or high boiling point compound impurities produced during adsorptive separation having an aldehyde group or a carboxyl group from it by a method selected from distillation, purging, or absorption to a solid absorbent to achieve an impurity level of  $\leq 1,000$  ppm by weight, supplied to the adsorptive separation

b2  
step.

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**Please cancel Claim 4 without prejudice and without disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.**